

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eugene District Office

Hazard Trees

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Expiration Date: October, 2008

Background:

Heavy winter rains, combined with severe wind conditions, are typical events which cause a significant number of blowdown and danger trees along road and electrical transmission right-of-ways. This causes complications to the maintenance of these roads and powerlines. The road crew and local utility companies have asked for assistance in keeping these right-of-ways clear of these danger trees and blowdown trees, which would help each maintenance program. Trees remaining along these right-of-ways are vulnerable to theft, and become a safety issue to vehicular traffic and the maintenance of the powerlines. In addition, danger trees and blowdown trees pose a safety threat to structures and/or human safety. Danger trees posing a threat to structures or human safety need to be addressed.

A danger tree is any standing live or dead tree, including snags, with evidence of deterioration or physical damage to the root system, trunk, or stem, when in proximity to people or structures. This is as defined in the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Code, Forest Activities, Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 437.

Proposed Action:

Danger trees and blowdown trees, which compromise the security of structures or jeopardize BLM's ability to maintain right-of-ways, may be removed when easily accessible or felled and left on site. Where possible, these trees would be sold or used for other projects, to recover value from BLM lands throughout the Upper Willamette Resource Area.

The objectives of the proposed action are to remove, or fell and leave on site, trees which jeopardize human safety, pose hazards to road and electrical transmission right-of-ways,

and where possible to recover resource value in a timely manner, and prevent theft of products.

Decision:

The proposed action described above is targeted for all BLM lands throughout the Upper Willamette Resource Area. It will be carried out as necessary to prevent theft and alleviate safety concerns.

Rationale:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as described in the Departmental Manual (516 DM 6, Appendix 5 C. (2)). It facilitates timely removal to prevent theft while also reducing public hazards along road and electrical transmission right-of-ways and recovers economic value in the form of wood products. The proposed action is consistent with the *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994), the Survey and Manage ROD (February 2001), the Eugene District ROD/RMP (June 1995) and the Eugene District guidance Pertaining to Coarse Woody Debris policy regarding salvage of blowdown on roads.

Prepared by: Ricardo Rodriguez

Date: 2/2/04

Reviewed by: Christie Hardenbrook
Environmental Coordinator

Date: 2/9/04

Approved by: Emily Rice
Upper Willamette Area Manager

Date: 2/9/04

Mitigation measures needed to qualify as CE:

Salvage of trees already down (Disturbance BA)

- No activity would occur March 1-September 30 where a known active spotted owl nest would be likely to be adversely affected unless the activity is required for public safety.
- ~~No activity would occur March 1-July 15 within LSRs or AMAs unless necessary to protect public safety.~~
- No activity would occur March 1-July 15 within 65 yards of suitable habitat. This seasonal restriction could be waived by a biologist if it is determined that the activity would not have an adverse effect on spotted owls.
- No activities would occur within 0.25 mile (0.5 mile line of sight distance) of a known bald eagle nest location (January 1-August 31) or known winter roost sight (November 15-March 15), unless these areas are verified to be unoccupied by a biologist.

Falling and subsequent salvage of standing hazard trees (Habitat modification BA)

- No activities would occur within 0.25 mile of known nest site or pair activity center March 1-September 30 (LSRs) or March 1-July 15 (all other land use allocations).
- No tree that is suitable for spotted owl nesting would be cut down under this CE as that is an adverse effect to this species.
- No activities would occur within 0.25 mile (0.5 mile line of sight distance) of a known bald eagle nest location (January 1-August 31) or known winter roost sight (November 15-March 15), unless these areas are verified to be unoccupied by a biologist.
- No tree that is suitable for bald eagle nesting would be cut down under this CE if suitable nesting trees are limited in the area.

Prepared By: Ricardo Rodriguez

Date: 2/2/04

Area Manager: Emily Rice
Upper Willamette Area Manager

Date: 2/9/04

*Above mitigation measures have been adopted and will be implemented.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
Exception Criteria Review Checklist

Proposed Action: Implement the sale of Special Forest Products through the issuance and administration of contracts for a variety of forest products on the Eugene District lands.

Review the proposed action against each of the 10 criteria listed below. If the project meets one or more of the criteria, it is an exception from categorical exclusion and MUST be analyzed in an EA or EIS. To qualify as a Categorical Exclusion the proposed action may not meet any of the criteria. If the criterion does not apply, indicate "Not Applicable." Any mitigation measures (such as contract stipulations or terms and conditions on permits) necessary to ensure that the proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion should be identified at the bottom of the page.

Exception Criteria		Comments
1.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety	None
2.	Have adverse effects on unique resources (i.e., parks, recreation, refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, wetlands, flood plains, etc.)	None
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects	No
4.	Have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks	No
5.	Establish a precedent that could result in significant impacts	No
6.	Be directly related to other actions having cumulatively significant effects	No
7.	Have adverse effects on cultural or historical resources	None
8.	Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed as threatened or endangered or have adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.	No MSD - Fisheries (10/1/03) CM - BORAY 10/2/03 FD Wild 10/1/03
9.	Require compliance with E.O. 11988 (flood plain management), E.O. 11990 (protection of wetlands), or the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act	No
10.	Threaten to violate Federal, State, Local or Native American law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment	No

Mitigation measures needed to qualify as CE:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

Reviewed By: C. H. [Signature]
Above mitigation measures have been adopted and will be implemented

Date: 2/9/04

Area Manager: Emily R. [Signature]
Upper Willamette Area Manager

Date: 2/9/04